



GREEN VENTURE

Community Green

GO GREEN, SAVE GREEN

Vol. 5 No. 1
Spring 2000

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Published Quarterly by Green Venture

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Green Venture:

Green Venture is a non-profit community organization serving the Greater Bay Area. We are dedicated to environmental awareness and sustainable economic



development.

Drop by our office at:
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9am - 5pm

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contact@greenventure.on.ca
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This spring marks the third year that Green Venture is offering native trees to homeowners living in Hamilton-Wentworth Region as part of the **20% Club** Homeowner Consultation.

In 1999 over 150 trees were planted in homeowners backyards throughout the region. Green Venture's goal is to double that to 300 trees this year, and we have a new partner to help us reach this target. Joining Green Venture and the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth is *HIEA*, the Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association. *HIEA* is composed of 12 companies in north-end Hamilton,

including Stelco, Dofasco and Columbian Chemicals. They are providing funding to further subsidize trees for north-end residents.

Homeowners can choose from Red Maple, White Ash, Ironwood, White Spruce, Serviceberry and more. All the varieties are indigenous to local soil and climatic conditions, which require less water and pesticide use. Homeowners can purchase trees when they sign up for a **20% Club** Homeowner Consultation. Plant a tree this spring and breathe easier! Contact Green Venture at **540-8787** to book a tree consultation today!

Is Your Composter Defrosting?

Compost that is really working should not freeze solid – here are some tips to keep it working all year long.

1. Try to find a place in the **sun** that is on level ground, has good drainage and where there is good air flow..
2. Start the pile with a layer of plant stalks or small branches; this allows air to circulate from the bottom. Add **equal amounts** of “green” (dry grass, plant trimmings) and “brown” (leaves, straw) materials, followed by a layer of soil.
3. This collection of materials should then be watered down – **to the moistness of a wrung out sponge**. You could use water from you rainbarrel or water from washing your dog (as long as the shampoo contains no chemicals).
4. Use fork, shovel or compost cane to **turn your pile** every other week or every week if you are putting lots of material in.

Quick tips: Dig in all food waste. Smaller items will decompose faster!

Keep it slightly moist and stirred and compost will be yours!



Composting Problems? Call Green Venture 905-540-8787



Support Green Venture

When shopping at Terra Greenhouses this May; mention Green Venture while you are paying and 8% of your total purchases will be donated to us!

Thank you for you support.

(3 locations) Hwy 6 Waterdown, Hwy 5 Burlington, Trafalgar Rd and Britannia Rd Milton



20% Club Energy Report Cards Are Out

For those who had **20% Club** Homeowner Consultations in 1999 and pledged to take part in Green Venture's Energy Report Card survey, the first batch of reports will be mailed out in mid-April. In 1999, Green Venture advisors visited 388 homes and a total of 270 homeowners agreed to take part in the Energy Report Card survey.

The results of the 270 people surveyed provides some interesting results. The single action that the most people (79%) pledged to do was to check the furnace filter monthly. This is followed closely by bluebox use (76%) and composting (64%). A large number of homeowners agreed to check tire pressure monthly (73%) and not to idle their vehicle (71%). A breakdown of each pledge:

Water Consumption:

Cold water rinsing (laundry) – 70%
Number agreeing to shorten shower time – 57%
Connect downspout to rainbarrel – 25%
Install a low flow toilet – 12%



Energy Consumption:

Clean Furnace filter monthly – 79%
Vent clothes dryer outside – 59%
Use a clothes line – 39%
Install a programmable thermostat – 15%



Waste Reduction:

Bluebox use – 76%
Compost – 64%
Use cloth instead of paper towels – 45%



Greenspace issues:

Follow healthy gardening practices – 59%
Plant a native tree – 54%
Avoid pesticide use – 35%



Transportation :

Check tire pressure monthly – 73%
Do not idle vehicle – 71%
Ride bike or walk to do errands – 43%
Leave car at home one day per week – 29%



PESTICIDE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

START THIS CENTURY FREE -
FREE OF PESTICIDES & CHEMICALS



AT GREEN VENTURE OUR AIM IS TO REDUCE PESTICIDE USE IN THE HAMILTON HARBOUR WATERSHED BY ENCOURAGING LANDOWNERS TO PLANT NATIVE SPECIES AND PROMOTING A CHEMICAL-FREE APPROACH TO HEALTHY PLANT AND SOIL HUSBANDRY

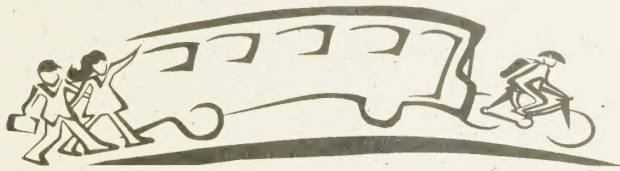
REDUCE YOUR YARD WORK – USE ALTERNATIVES TO TURF AND SAVE MONEY ON YOUR WATER BILLS. Native plants in landscapes require less energy and water to maintain. The yard will be safe for man and beast. Some plants attract ladybug beetles and when they arrive they eat the aphids which had been eating the roses perhaps. Checking the pH level of the soil and using organic substances such as limestone or peat to raise or lower the pH is the first step when starting your garden. Testing is available to indicate what minerals are lacking or present in your soil. Plants themselves will tell you what is missing, and this can be remedied. Having sufficient humus available to hold moisture and nutrients will help to create a healthy environment. Plants growing in a healthy medium will be

healthier and will resist pests and diseases much more readily, therefore not requiring the use of pesticides and herbicides. A healthy yard will not allow room for invasive weed seeds to grow. Getting the yard healthy may take a few growing seasons, but in the long run it will be worthwhile. You can sit and enjoy the view from a chair instead of on your knees looking for the evidence of bugs or blight!

Chemical free yards encourage other forms of wildlife such as birds that eat bugs thereby reducing the problem of what's eating the fruit trees. The next time you have a problem with mildew or bugs, check out our alternative sprays and concoctions made of non-toxic soap or icing sugar (and sometimes borax) and blended rhubarb leaves.... they are deadly!



Start Your Day Smart! Join the Hamilton-Wentworth Commuter Challenge



Green Venture is working with the Hamilton Air Quality Improvement Committee on the **Hamilton-Wentworth Commuter Challenge**, a five-day-long event to mark Environment Week (June 5-9, 2000). The challenge is simple: Be a "Smarter Commuter". Smarter commuters get to work any which way but by driving alone. We're calling this "smarter" because of the environmental, psychological, physiological and financial benefits to alternative methods of commuting. In other words, "smarter commuters" are smog smart, stress smart, heart smart, and money smart.

We welcome both individual participants and entire organizations. Employees of participating organizations compete to have the largest percentage of "smarter commuters" during the entire week. Individual participants--those whose employer did not sign on with us--can make a real difference on Wednesday June 7. This is the date of the **Canadian Commuter Challenge**, where Hamilton-Wentworth will compete with cities from across the country to determine a national winner. Participants--be they individuals or companies--will be given pre-stamped postcards which they can send to challenge others in their sector or community to "get smart".

Our goals for the Challenge are maximum exposure,

maximum involvement, maximum fun, and maximum recognition that "smart commuting" is an easy and rewarding way to improve health in its broadest sense!

Tentative Schedule of Events:



Thursday April 27: Corporate Launch and Media Breakfast

Sunday June 4: Big Bike Parade and Opening Ceremonies

Tuesday June 5: Extreme Carpool Challenge

Wednesday June 7: Totally Transit Day

Thursday June 8: The Self-Propel-A-Thon, with proceeds going to charity

Friday June 9: Car-free Friday and Hess Festival

Participation has its rewards! We want to recognize those who are making such an important contribution to our community. You'll receive a Smart Commuter Resource Kit, including thank-you package, and the chance to win great prizes throughout the week. The grand prize for the organization in each size category with the largest percentage of "smarter commuters" is a piece of local artwork with an environmental theme. The most long-lasting reward, however, is knowing exactly how much pollution you saved from entering the air. Don't worry, we do the number crunching for you.

Start your day *Smart* and get on board with the **Commuter Challenge!** Want to register? Need more information? Have an idea? See a link between something your organization is planning and something on our agenda?



We'd love you to hear from you!

Contact Jennifer Dawson at 540-8787 x 16

Programmable Thermostats available at Green Venture

Did you know...You can save as much as 33% on your heating and cooling bills...with a Honeywell T8000C 1028 programmable thermostat installed by **Green Venture**. Simply program a lower temperature for sleeping or for other times when family members are at work or school. Program it to automatically return to a comfortable level before you awake and again before you return home. In addition, the thermostat will reduce cooling costs in the summer.

Prices: \$130.00 + GST/PST installed

\$85.00 + GST/PST Do it Yourself

Features:

- 2 programs: 1 for weekdays and 1 for weekends, with up to 4 time periods each day
- temporary temperature override changes temperature without changing the program
- "Hold temp" feature, sets a constant temperature, stores heating and cooling programs simultaneously
- no need for batteries; a memory chip retains settings in case of a power failure
- comes pre-programmed, easy to customize, with compressor short cycle protection

Call 905-540-8787 for more details.



On the Green Scene:



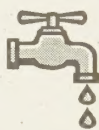
Enviro-Guide

The Second Edition of the *Hamilton-Wentworth Enviro-Guide* is due out in April on Earth Day! Watch for your copy in community outlets or call Green Venture to be put on the mailing list. The *Enviro-Guide* is your one stop resource for environmental information in Hamilton-Wentworth!



The Home Performance Experts

This is the new name for our **EnerGuide for Houses** service. This whole house service has proven invaluable to homeowners in helping solve home comfort problems and in lowering monthly energy bills. If you suffer from drafts, moisture and condensation problems, indoor air quality problems contact the Home Performance Experts at 905-540-8787 to schedule a Home Performance Evaluation.



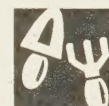
Water Meters

Beginning in August and over the next 3 years 39,000 homes in Hamilton-Wentworth will be put on water meters. Green Venture is working with the Hamilton-Wentworth Region to make this transition as easy as possible for homeowners with the development of a

Wise Water Use Homeowner consultation. More details available in our summer newsletter.

Green Venture Products and Services Brochure

For those of you that asked and for those of you that have always wondering –what in the heck to those Green Venture folks do? The answer is here! Green Venture now has a products and services brochure and boy do we do a lot. We squished as much information into the brochure as possible but when your goal is to be a *one stop environmental resources shop* the task is a little overwhelming. To get a copy of the brochure stop by our office to pick one up (and see many of our products on display) call us to have one mailed or stop by our booth at many of the Hamilton region's most popular summer festivals!



Gadget Lovers Alert

Green Venture is on the cutting edge or should we say turning edge of this year's must have gadgets! Recently featured in the Hamilton Spectators Home Improvement section the compost cane by Jim Lindsay of Orangeville is a gardeners delight. Ideal for those that can't turn their compost enough or those that have had enough of turning their compost!! Stop by our office or our booth at many summer festivals to pick yours up! Great gift idea for Mother's or Father's day!

Upcoming Spring Events, Mark Your Calendars

April 6 – Conserver Society Annual General Meeting at the Hamilton Central Public Library, 7pm. Guest Speaker Rod MacRae. All are welcome.

April 16– *Celebrating Paradise*, at the Royal Botanical Gardens Arboretum (Cootes Paradise) 10am –4pm, watch for Green Venture's pesticide and mercury display.

April 27 – **Earth Day** Eco-festival at Copps Coliseum. Hosted by Earth Day Hamilton, highlights include: key-note speaker Jed Goldberg, President of Earth Day Canada, singer/songwriter Jude Johnson, Every day is Earth Day, a play performed by high school students, the Vision 2020 mobile exhibit, Children's Water Institute, Johnny Biosphere, and the African Lion Safari. There is no cost. You can download a registration form from the website www.hwc.org/link/edh or call (905) 545-5577 to request a fax.

April 28-May 7– *Arbor Week*. Get involved by planting a tree!!

May 1– Pesticide Free Communities Launch! Watch your local paper for details.

May 1-6 – Hamilton-Wentworth Region *Pitch-In-Week*. Hosted by the Keep Hamilton Clean Committee. To find out more about *Pitch-In-Week* events happening in your neighbourhood call 385-3740.

June 5 –9 – National Environment Week and *Commuter Challenge*.

June 18 – Carnegie Gallery Garden Tour. Watch *Dundas Star* for details.

June 30– July 1 - *It's Your Festival*, watch for our booth at this and many other summer festivals!